

IN THE CLAIMS

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Amended) A device for providing a text related to an image, comprising:

a microprocessor; ~~and~~

a library of stored images; ~~and~~

a library of stored and-related texts, wherein each of the stored texts is associated with at least one of the stored images;

wherein, upon receipt of a new image, the microprocessor compares the new image to the stored images and, when a predetermined level of similarity is identified between the new image and one of the stored images, associates with the new image the stored text associated with the identified stored image ~~each of the images being associated with at least a portion of one of the related texts, wherein an image from outside the library may be compared to the images in the library and, based on the comparison, one of the images may be selected, thereby selecting at least a portion of the related text.~~

44. (Amended) The device of claim 43, wherein the ~~library of new image,~~ stored images and associated stored texts ~~is~~ are digital.

45. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the microprocessor uses digital image recognition to determine whether there is the predetermined level of similarity between the new image and any of the stored images ~~the image from outside the library is digital.~~

46. (Amended) The device of claim 43, wherein, when no predetermined level of similarity between the new image and any of the stored images is identified, the microprocessor generates a signal to indicate that no match has been identified for the new image ~~the at least a portion of one of the related texts is adapted to be inserted in a record.~~

47. (Amended) A device for producing a text for use in a record concerning a surgical procedure, comprising:

a library of stored images drawn from past surgical procedures;

a library of stored texts, each of the stored images being associated with at least a portion of one of the stored texts; and

a microprocessor; and

~~an image from outside said library;~~

wherein, upon receipt of a new image, the microprocessor is ~~adapted to~~ compares the new image from outside the library to the stored images in the library; and wherein, based on the comparison, associates one or more portions of one or more of the stored texts ~~is selected for use in the record~~ with the new image.

48. (Amended) The device of claim 47, wherein the procedure is a surgical procedure and the past procedures are past surgical procedures ~~images in the library, the image from outside the library and the texts are digital.~~

49. (Amended) The device of claim 47, wherein the new image is compared with the stored images using digital image recognition ~~image from outside the library is a recorded image.~~

50. (Amended) The device of claim 47, wherein the new image ~~from outside the library~~ is a real-time image.

51. (Amended) An apparatus for producing a record comprising:

means for ~~manipulating data, including~~ storing a plurality of images and a plurality of texts, at least a portion of each stored text being associated with one of the ~~plurality of~~ stored images;

means for comparing a new ~~an outside~~ image to the ~~plurality of~~ stored images using digital image recognition to identify one or more stored images having a predetermined level of similarity to the new image ~~and for selecting one of the plurality of images that is similar to the outside image;~~ and

means for creating a record by associating with the new image the stored text associated with the identified stored image ~~selecting the one of the texts associated with the selected image.~~

52. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the ~~selected~~ text associated with the new image is descriptive of the new outside image.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising means for digitizing the images.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising means for communicating the images and texts.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the images depict aspects of medical procedures.

56. (Amended) A method of providing a medical record comprising the steps of:

capturing a library video image of a medical procedure;

processing the library video image to provide a library digital image ~~signal~~;

creating a text description associated with ~~of~~ the library digital ~~video~~ image;

capturing an outside video image of an outside medical procedure and processing the outside video image to provide an outside digital image ~~signal~~; and

comparing the library digital image ~~signal~~ and the outside digital image ~~signal~~, wherein, if the library digital image and the outside digital image have a predetermined level of similarity ~~are similar~~, the text description associated with the library digital image is selected to become associated with the outside digital image to form a at least a portion of the medical record.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein a plurality of library video images and respective library digital image signals and text descriptions are captured, processed, and created.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein the library digital image signals and text descriptions comprise an electronically accessible database.

59-74. (Canceled)

75. (Amended) A method of creating a record comprising the steps of:

forming groups of library images, each group depicting a portion of a procedure;
and

forming a group of library texts describing the procedure, wherein each of the library texts forming the group of library texts corresponds to one of the portions of a procedure;

providing an outside image of a procedure;

comparing the outside image to the groups of library images;

selecting an image or group of image from the library images that has a predetermined level of similarity with ~~is similar to~~ the outside image;

selecting the library text corresponding to the portion of the procedure corresponding with the selected library image; and

~~storing~~ ~~inputting~~ the selected library text with the outside image to create a ~~into~~ the medical record.

76. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein the library images and the library texts are digital.

77. (Original) The method of claim 76, wherein the outside image is digital.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the steps of selecting an image and selecting the library text are accomplished by a microprocessor.

79. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the predetermined level of similarity is determined using digital image recognition.

80. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the record created is a medical record.

81. (New) A method for providing a text related to an image, comprising:

creating a library of stored images;

creating a library of stored texts, wherein each of the stored texts is associated with at least one of the stored images;

receiving a new image;

comparing the new image to the stored images using digital image recognition to determine whether a predetermined level of similarity exists between the new image and one or more of the stored images;

when the predetermined level of similarity is identified between the new image and one or more of the stored images, associating with the new image the stored text associated with the identified stored image.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the new image, stored images and stored texts are digital.

83. (New) The method of claim 81, further comprising the step of:

generating a signal to indicate that no match has been identified for the new image when none of the stored image have the predetermined level of similarity with the new image.